

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action of Dec. 30, 2008. In preparation of this response, the Examiner was contacted on separate occasions, but due to timing issues, a complete conversation regarding this Office Action response was not possible.

This amendment concentrates on the fact that the chamber houses and surrounds the proximity heads, so as to define an apparatus that can control the humidity around the processing of the wafer surface. In claim 20, the chamber was note added, as this is a separate embodiment, shown in Figure 5 and the corresponding description. However, claim 20 was amended, to define the control envelope 404, described in paragraph [0049] of the as-filed application.

In response to the Examiner's last response comments, the applicants answer as follows. Regarding item 3, it is submitted that Mertens does not teach a chamber for housing the apparatus, and in light of the clarifying amendment, Mertens also does not teach to surround proximity heads with the chamber. In regard to item 4, it is submitted that the claims do recite that top and bottom heads, and the directionality of the respective heads, as defined in the chamber and held by arms. As such, it is respectfully submitted that more than just "discrete conduits" have been claimed. In regard to item 5, the Applicants have further recited that the chamber surrounds the proximity heads, in addition to housing the proximity heads. In view of this clarifying language, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the scope of the claimed chamber, as claimed and taught by the Applicants.

In regard to item 6, the undersigned wishes to discuss the case with the Examiner, if the Examiner feels that further clarification is needed to pass the case to issue. Thus, before the Examiner issues an action, the undersigned requests a courtesy call to schedule a phone conference.

All prior arguments still being applicable, the Applicants incorporate by reference the previously made arguments regarding the art, for the sake of brevity and conciseness.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and submit that the claims are allowable over the rejection presented by the Office.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 774-6903. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P467).

Respectfully Submitted,
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